--The protein according to the present invention includes proteins in general which have specific physicochemical properties and those derived from natural sources and those prepared by the recombinant DNA technology. The present protein generally has a partially or totally revealed amino acid sequence, for example, the amino acid sequence containing the N-terminal in SEQ ID NO:2 and its homologous amino acid sequences. Variants, which have homologous amino acid sequence to the one in SEQ ID NO:2, can be obtained by replacing one or more amino acids in SEQ ID NO:2 with other amino acids without alternating the inherent biological properties of the present protein. Even when used the same DNA and depending on hosts into which the DNA is introduced, as well as on the components of nutrient culture media, the conditions of cultivation temperature and pH for culturing transformants containing the DNA, it may be formed variants, which are defective in or additionally contain one or more amino acids near to the N-terminal in SEQ ID NO:2 while retaining the inherent biological properties of the protein, by the modification with internal enzymes of the hosts after the DNA expression. The present protein includes such variants as long as they induce the IFN-γ production by immunocompetent cells.--

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